

OUTLOOKS

A shirtless man with a muscular build is the central figure, looking towards the camera with a slight smile. He is wearing a thin chain necklace and a patterned headband. His right arm is raised, touching his head. The background is a festive party scene with red and white streamers, balloons (pink, purple, and red), and a banner that reads "HAPPY NEW YEAR". A window on the right shows a view of the outdoors. In the bottom left, there are bottles of beer and party supplies. The overall lighting is warm and indoor.

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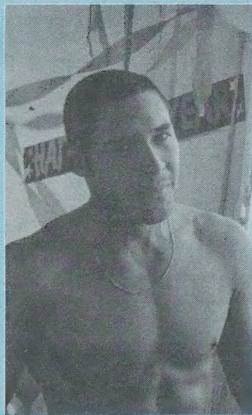


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On The Cover:
Yerson, looking very much in need of some comforting after a New Year's celebration. Photographed on location at Urban Sky Studio by David Crosson. Special thanks to Neil Webster for all his help with the shoot.

what's where



LIBBY LOVES YA!

Whether you're a constituent or just another human being in this tough world of ours, NDP Member of Parliament Libby Davies wants you to know she's on your side. Gerard MacMullin brings us up to speed on the Divine—and oft-overlooked—Miss D.



THE WAY WE WERE

2004 was a year of ups and downs for everyone, although in terms of equal rights victories we all enjoyed our fair share of ups. *Outlooks* takes you on a visual journey of the year that was...



CRIB(BIN) NOTES

Toronto has a new Mr. Leather for 2005, this time in the form of Sean Cribbin. Hogtown contributor Lino DiNallo gets the lowdown on Mr. C's pre- and post-sash plans

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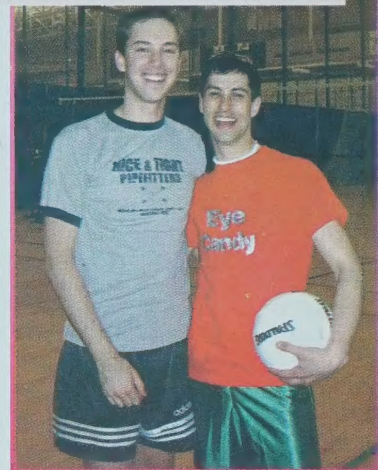
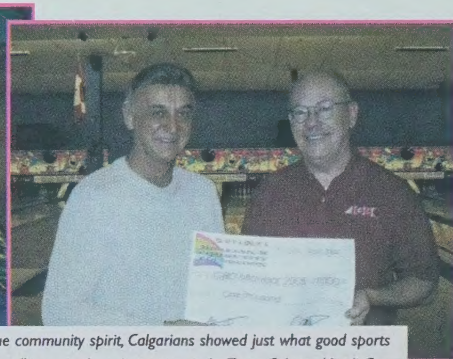


THE
YEAR
IN
REVIEW

AIDS Calgary sallied forth against some rather daunting financial odds, and managed to produce yet another Calgary Cares extravaganza (a glimpse of the media preview is seen below left). The twenty-year-old organization also welcomed a new executive director, Susan Cress, pictured on the right (below right) with partner Jode and son Griffin at the Tompkins Park Cut-a-thon.



In true community spirit, Calgarians showed just what good sports they really are, in these instances: at the Team Calgary Mardi Gras party (left), with preparations for IGBO's 2005 Mid-year event (above) and at Apollo's annual Western Cup tournament (below).



Leather and denim were both covered off in the community, both at the Eagle (Barry presents Terry with a cheque for Beswick House, above) and the annual ARGRA Rodeo (below).



2004 saw many changes in the city's Pride celebrations, including a new board of directors (some of whom are pictured above), an extended parade route (a sample is seen left) and Calgary's first-ever Pride month banners along 17th Avenue S.W.



All photos this page by
Outlooks Staff.

Thank you for the present

By Roy Heale

What a surprise it was to receive an early present from Santa without having to wait for the jolly old man to squeeze down the chimney on Christmas Eve. The venerable Supreme Court justices pre-empted the season of giving with a surprise gift, at a time when no one really expected it. By their very nature, unexpected gifts are the best kind to receive, and when these judges advised Prime Minister Paul Martin that same-sex marriage was indeed constitutional in Canada, it made almost anything yet to come seem pale in comparison. It was easy, for a brief time, to imagine that it couldn't get any better, and then lo and behold Prime Minister Martin promised us that the new marriage act would be put up for a free vote before Parliament in the House of Commons early in the new year. Who knew he would—or even *could*—take after the wise men so often associated with Christmas lore?



True, most legal minds and constitutional experts had predicted this outcome, but very few expected such swift action by the usually slow and plodding Supreme Court judges. However, like most fairy tales, there had to be a bad guy, in this case it was that grinch who steals—well, *everything*: Ralph Klein. Talk about giving Ebenezer Scrooge a run for his money! Of course, his reaction came as little surprise to everyone across the land, futile ramblings though they may have been.

His Royal Ralphness finally admitted the inevitable: he cannot use the dreaded "notwithstanding" clause to overrule a federal marriage act. After all of his empty threats, Klein finally listened to one of his three wise men (assuming you could even find three in the Alberta Progressive Conservative Party) and begrudgingly accepted that his pet clause was useless in the fight against progress. Now there are rumblings of a new provincial marriage act, or a referendum to see what Ralph's loyal subjects really want. However, Klein's chief of staff, Rod Love, was quoted as saying people should not presuppose what final position Alberta will take because November's provincial election brought new Tory MLAs to the table, an interesting comment from Love, to say the least. Stay tuned for possible palace coup in the fiefdom known as Alberta...

When the time comes, Ralph should set aside his personal right wing agenda and obey Canadian law. Any other course of action will result in a costly legal challenge, one guaranteed to fail in the courts and equally guaranteed to cost millions in Albertans' hard-earned tax dollars. Meanwhile, back in Ottawa, Parliament has yet to determine the outcome—and let's hope they can make Alberta follow the law of the land, even in King Ralph's world.

As we begin a new year, we will also witness a new era in equality for Canada's GLBT community, a development being watched by people around the world, especially those living in the strongly divided United States. Recently, a Denver talk radio station asked me to be their guest for a one-hour interview that featured live phone-in questions from

listeners. It was interesting to see just how interested Americans are in what's happening up here, not to mention how many are planning on coming to Canada for a same-sex ceremony—even if it's still uncertain how the U.S. state governments will recognize these marriages. After all, heterosexual couples cannot automatically be divorced when they cross an international border, so why should their homosexual counterparts? One lesbian caller was especially interested in our situation here, as her partner is a member of the armed forces serving in Iraq. She was extremely concerned about the lack of spousal benefits for same-sex couples and wondered if a Canadian marriage could hold the key to this issue.

Even though the "finish line" seems to be closer than ever before, it is still very important for us to contact our federal MPs and make our positions known. Elements of Canadian society's right wing (religious and political alike) are already lobbying individual members of Parliament to vote against the new marriage act when the time comes. If we do not counter their efforts then the outcome of the vote could go against us. If you visit the site www.equal-marriage.ca, you'll see how easy they make it for you to send a series of e-mails to your local MP and other pertinent parties, as well as sign their online petition. For just a couple of minutes of your time, you can make your voice heard and, more importantly, make your opinion count. Be sure to take the time to be a part of gay Canadian history today, before the new act is tabled in the House of Commons. If enough of us are motivated to participate, our actions will surely count.

As 2005 begins, we know it will prove to be an interesting year in Canadian politics, a year where everyone around the world will be watching the results of this test of democracy. On behalf of everyone here at *Outlooks*, I wish you a happy and prosperous new year and look forward to providing you with more interesting stories on Canada's gay community from coast to coast in the coming months. ▼

OUTLOOKS

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Taylor made for change

By David Crosson

In the most recent provincial election, forward-thinking Albertans received a bit of an early Christmas present in the form of a major Liberal victory. Though the party only secured seventeen seats in the Alberta Legislature, it made significant inroads in Calgary, traditionally a sea of blue Tory ridings (made more colourful by red necks). One of the three Liberals elected was radio talk show host Dave Taylor, an eloquent and aggressive man who is likely to give Klein and his henchmen a run for their—and our—money. *Outlooks* recently caught up with Taylor (who was named deputy party leader soon after the interview took place) to talk about what lies ahead for him, his party and Alberta liberals in general.

Outlooks: Whether it's on the radio or in politics, as a liberal thinker in Alberta, is it frustrating trying to educate people to see things in a different light?

Taylor: Yes, I suppose so. I don't know if it's *frustrating*, it's just a long-term project. I've finished with the talk show now but I started doing that about nine years ago and, at least back then, it was pretty obvious that the overwhelming sentiment was right-of-centre—at least among QR77's listeners at that time. But slowly and persistently, we've built up this notion that there's an alternative point of view, an alternative way of looking at the world; of doing things and thinking about things in a different way. And I think it's gathered quite a following.

Outlooks: Why did you get involved in politics—was it a natural progression from the interaction you had with people on the radio?

Taylor: I guess it is a natural extension in terms of what I was doing on the radio; when you have a journalistic background and you're involved in a talk show, there's

"It seems to me that, over the last eleven years, there has been a good deal of effort expended by the Conservatives in actively seeking out groups that they can marginalize and pit against the 'severely normal' mainstream that Klein likes to talk about."

obviously ongoing attention paid to politics and an interest in politics—otherwise you couldn't really do your job. Did I *plan* to run? Not really. But every once in awhile I'd think about it and then I'd kind of lie down and chalk it up to not feeling well! [Laughs] This summer—actually, from the summer of 2003 to this past summer, 2004—in doing my radio show I noticed that every time we talked about a provincial issue or touched on anything that had to do with the provincial government, I'd hear from first-time callers, people I'd never heard from before. And they'd say, "You know, I've been a lifelong Conservative but I'm not anymore" or "I've always voted for Klein but not next time". When you hear this day after day after day for the better part of a year, you come to the conclusion that there really is an appetite for change out there.

Outlooks: So you determined that the time was right?

Taylor: Yeah, I guess. It's what a lot of journalists, pundits and political science-types missed early on in this campaign when they were predicting a Conservative sweep or a huge majority or coronation, as someone put it. One of the great advantages to doing the talk show was to discover, over time, how the mood of the people was changing.

Outlooks: Taking this perhaps to an extreme, if the mood of the people changes radically next time around and we find ourselves with the Liberals in control, how would you like to see the province develop in terms of a sociopolitical agenda?

Taylor: Well, one of the things that we pushed in our campaign in Calgary-Currie was the politics of respect, the politics of inclusion. One of the hallmarks of the Klein years has been a divide-and-conquer mentality that pits one group against another group. It seems to me that, over the last eleven years, there has been a good deal of effort expended by the Conservatives in actively seeking out groups that they can marginalize and pit against the "severely normal" mainstream that Klein likes to talk about. I think that kind of divisive approach to politics has got to end.

Outlooks: Given the current circumstances, even with a greater Liberal win than anticipated, what kind of affect do you think you can have—even if you band together with the NDP—when the Conservatives have such a strong majority?

Taylor: Well, that's a good question—and I'll be better able to answer it in about six weeks when we finish going through the orientation process, which is a *huge* learning curve. There are seventeen Liberal MLAs and fourteen of us are first-timers. I've been spending quite a bit of time in Edmonton just learning how things work and where things go. I look around our caucus and I see seventeen people who are eager, ready to get

down to work and all set to hold this government accountable. I think the role of opposition in this case is to make noise. You can't often win votes on the floor if you are the opposition in a majority government. And I don't think anyone expects that. What you can do by making noise is call attention to those times when the government is doing something that is not working or just plain wrong or inappropriate or badly conceived. You can present an alternative point of view and you can package up ideas and say "Here's how we would do it; consider this..." Of course, as the opposition party, when you put your ideas out like that you offer the governing party the opportunity to steal those ideas. But if they're good ideas and they steal them, then the people of Alberta ultimately benefit, don't they? In that sense—working in the court of public opinion, speaking out, advocating for people—we can make a fair amount of noise and stir up a fair amount of interest.

Outlooks: Now, you're in Calgary-Currie, but the predominantly gay and lesbian area was won by a Conservative; is it possible for people outside of your constituency—or that of another Liberal or NDP MLA—to come and seek assistance if they feel their MLA is not listening to, or interested in, their issues?

Taylor: Absolutely. It's not only an option, it's an obligation on their part and on our part as well—I'm including my fellow Liberal MLAs in Calgary here, too: Harry Chase in Varsity and David Swann in Mountainview. We realize that, as three Liberals in a sea of Tory blue, our first responsibility is to our own constituents individually. But we have a shared responsibility to all the people in the other twenty ridings with Conservative MLAs who find they can't or don't get adequate satisfaction from those representatives. The only thing I

would ask is that, if you live outside of my constituency—if you live in one that has elected a Tory MLA—you give it your best shot when trying to get his attention or get him inside with what you need first. And if that doesn't work out, then by all means bring your concerns to me or one of the other Liberal MLAs and we'll do what we can to go to bat for you. That's far better than if someone outside the constituency comes to us because they don't like the fact that they have a Conservative MLA. It doesn't matter which banner he or she ran under, an MLA, once elected, must represent each and every person in their constituency, whether that person voted for them or not. Or even if that person never voted at all.

Outlooks: Since the Supreme Court announced their answers to the same-sex marriage questions the prime minister posed, it's become apparent that the Alberta government cannot use the "notwithstanding" clause to prevent gay marriage in this province. What are your thoughts on all this?

Taylor: Well, the Alberta Liberal Party supports the court's decision and I have to say that I'm pleased to see the Supreme Court of Canada telling the federal government that it can change the marriage act while still upholding the freedom of religious groups to refuse to marry same-sex couples. The rights of *all* people must be treated equally. It would be a good idea for the current government of Alberta to not fight this, because it would be a waste of taxpayers' money and there's no way to justify that when the outcome is inevitable.

Outlooks: Ralph Klein went from reporter to premier and you've gone from talk show host to politician—any chance you'd consider following in his footsteps?

Taylor: [Laughs] Oh, please! I've been on the job for *how long* now—two weeks and a day!! [Laughs] The thing that I'm shooting for personally is helping Kevin Taft become premier in three or four years—whenever the next election is—and elect a Liberal government in the province of Alberta. And I hope to be a part of that government. Beyond that it's way too far in the future. I don't have any of those ambitions—let's see how I do as an MLA first! I truly believe the people of Calgary-Currie deserve better representation than I and many of them felt they got over the last four years. My job is to try to deliver on that promise for the next four years. *That* is my focus. ♥



Former talk show host Dave Taylor, MLA for Calgary-Currie and recently appointed Deputy Leader of the Alberta Liberal Party

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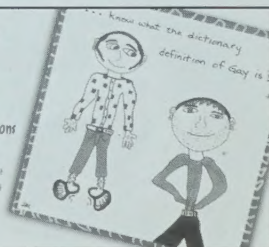
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Thrown to the lions?!

By John Coulbourn

It appears as though we are finally heading into the final heated arguments on the whole subject of same-sex marriage—and as we do, there is one thing we should all keep in mind. Despite popular misconception, there were no bras burned during the sexual revolution. Now, lest you think I've gone completely off my nut, perhaps I should explain that it is the popular misconception and not the bra that is important here. Because, if our dear and gentle friends on the far right of the political spectrum have their way, it looks as though we are about to have another popular misconception foisted upon us unless we take steps to immediately thwart it.

That would be, of course, the misconception that, in the Canada of the 21st century, Christians have somehow become a persecuted minority. It's a notion that seems to be gathering credence in even these pages where a letter writer accused this publication and your humble scribe of "God-bashing", and further took this paper and me to task for being "anti-Christian". After all that the Christian right has done for the gay community, such an accusation, in my mind, is a little like criticizing the Jews for being anti-Nazi. But I digress...

Coupling the aforementioned letter with a few columns I've read in the popular press suggesting that Christians are the new down-trodden and persecuted element of our society has nonetheless prompted me to search my conscience and popular culture for signs that Christ and Christians (as opposed to the Christian Right) might be under attack. One of the first things one must look for in terms of such a search is a name that is perjorative. In today's world, one simply can't be persecuted without one.

For years, for instance, people of the Jewish persuasion have had to contend with everything from "Christ-killer" to "kyke", while blacks laboured under everything from the dread "n-word" to "jungle bunny" and the like. Personally, I've not strayed so far from my Alberta roots that I don't remember the spate of perjoratives ("camel jockey", "rag head") that greeted the first waves of southeast Asian immigrants to the land of my birth. Similarly, and despite the reclamation work being attempted by those determined to restore it to the broad lexicon, I still shudder at the word "queer", a word which admittedly sounds far different in casual conversation than it does shouted out of a car window when you are walking down an otherwise deserted street with someone you love. And let's not forget "fag", "dyke" and "fairy"—none of which should appear on your resume if you are seeking a position of deacon in a fundamentalist Christian church.

Try as I might, I can't seem to find a word that, in one or two syllables, summons up all the hatred Canadian society is supposed to be feeling toward those of the Christian faith. Even if such a word existed, however, the Christian community still lacks the one thing that is *de rigueur* for every persecuted minority—and that would be a contemporary martyr.

Jews, for instance, have six million or more of them, all of whom died less than a century ago. In addition to hundreds, if not thousands, of lesser known but no less determined individuals, the black community has the Rev. Martin Luther King, while we in the gay community have an entire pantheon, too, with a young and broken Matthew Shepherd tossed carelessly on the very top of the heap by a society that didn't value his life. Meanwhile, Fox's *Book Of Martyrs* hasn't been updated for many centuries. Finally, what I'm left with is a (too) distant memory from the days that preceded that happy mis-spending of my youth. My father, in the proud tradition of prairie farmers everywhere—and no doubt more than a little alarmed by his only son's obvious lack of athletic prowess and overt masculinity—declared that doing dishes was "girls' work", and as such would now be the exclusive domain of my mother and my sisters. I revelled in his world for the two or three days it took my mother to lead him, kicking and screaming, into the middle of the 20th century—and, not surprisingly, I felt more than a little put upon, even persecuted, when I found myself back on dish-drying duty. My sisters were justifiably smug, needless to say, and I thought they were hateful. But I am no longer a child and I recognise that what I was feeling then was not persecution but merely frustration at the loss of a privilege I had done absolutely nothing to earn.

After a few days of gloating, my sisters and I found other battles to fight and we lived together for years in equality, if not equanimity. The fact that our courts have revoked the Christian Right's license to hate and discriminate is, no doubt, equally as frustrating as my loss of dish-drying immunity—in a childish sort of way—but it no more establishes them as a persecuted minority than did my subsequent close association with a tea towel.

If the Christian Right really wants to find out what it feels like to be a persecuted minority, they need only talk to a few of the minorities they've persecuted so effectively over the years.

And pointing that out doesn't make me a God basher—unless, of course, his right wing followers really see themselves as God, in which case a review of the Ten Commandments might be in order. ▼

John Coulbourn is a native Albertan who lived for many years in Calgary. He now makes his home in Toronto, where he covers performing arts for the Toronto Sun.



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out & about TORONTO

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Cosmopolitan Toronto saw more than its fair share of glam events: Marcello, Salah and Mathieu are pictured here at an evening with legendary diva Eartha Kitt.



Diversity ranked even among our diverse ranks, including members of the city's GLBT Polish community (right)



Toronto's drag and gender-f*** contingent proved that variety truly is the spice of life—even when it does result in a bit of heartburn.



Photos this page by Rick Matthews, Mathieu Chantelois and the Toronto Court



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Leather's in his hide...

By Lino DiNallo

Despite the dead cows left in its wake and its penchant for black, the leather community is certainly a colourful one. Unfortunately, like any niche group, I'd imagine they are plagued with issues the rest of us could never know, issues like: "Is it gauche to hang macramé plant holders on my sling hooks between play dates?" "Should I use Woolite in the gentle cycle, or a professional hide cleaner for my leather thong?" And, of course, "Can I be a leather queen if I'm also a vegan?"

When it comes to leather, I'm a bit of a tourist myself—I'll wear it but don't live it, breathe it or lick it. My first taste of it was that cliché gay bar in those horrendous *Police Academy* movies, "The Blue Oyster", which could explain my urge to tango every time I put on my harness. Nonetheless, on Saturday, November 27, I gussied up for Mr. Leatherman Toronto 2005, an event that can only be described as a pageant with an edge.

Ironically, most of my getup came from my dear friend and roommate, a twinkie fashionista who concerns himself more with Tom Ford than Tom of Finland ("Oh, Lino, furniture and cars don't matter to me; all I care about is how I look when I go out"). It was one of those rare nights when I could look in the mirror and unabashedly declare, "Dammit, bitch, you look good!", so off I went dressed for trouble.

MLT involves your typical pomp and circumstance; they loathe the term "pageant" but some of the parallels with Miss America (or Miss Nebraska Dairy Farm for that matter) can't be ignored: there are votes for minimal wear (swimsuits), full-formal (evening gown) and a declaration of Mr. Leather Fellowship (Miss Congeniality). But since every leather queen who's any leather queen knows MLT has no talent segment, I restrained myself from uttering sarcastic heckles like "When does the baton twirling start?" from the back of the audience.

One thing MLT does have over Miss America is a Bootblack contest, in which a dirty little bootlicker is honored like a prize-winning pig at the county fair for his/her dedication to the art and fetish of polishing (I say "dirty little bootlicker" because I figure that's a compliment). Stepping down this year was Slaveboy Dave, decked in latex, who delivered an eyebrow-raising farewell speech about getting sores on his tongue after twenty-one consecutive hours of bootlicking at Chicago's Pantheon of Leather.

Dave passed his chamois on to Cub, the new Bootblack 2005. Mr. Leather Fellowship Alan Anderson passed his sash on to Cam Lewis (Mr. Steamworks Leather), and at the end of the competition, after eight leathermen strutted bare-assed around the stage, Remi Collette (who placed as First Runner Up at International Mr. Leather this year) handed the proverbial roses and tiara to Sean Cribbin, Mr. Woody's Leather, as the new MLT. A few days after the hullabaloo ended, I met with Cribbin to talk about life before the competition, and where he'll go from here with his new fundraising and community responsibilities.

Sean Cribbin has been into leather almost as long as he's been out, and he credits the leather community with helping to form his personality ("both good and bad"), his social circles, and introducing him to partners over the years. Because of the mentors and support, Cribbin felt he could explore things he was interested in without feeling awkward or ashamed.

This knowledge and support formed his campaign platform and he plans to elaborate it in his new role. "As MLT you get an audience to [whom you can] express your views. For me, that idea that knowledge is power may be a basic and fundamental principle, but it's one that transforms into everything, going as far as gaining a fuller understanding of S&M arts [in order] to be safer."

His platform even affected his decision to enter the preliminary Mr. Woody's competition, rather than a more "leathery" bar, as Woody's is the watering hole where everybody from leather daddies to drag queens to guys who are just coming out converge without drawing battle lines.

After hearing that he was entering Mr. Woody's, two of Cribbin's co-workers who had never been to a gay bar showed up to rally support for his efforts. He recalls the incident with a shudder: "I was standing there in full-formal, with a bar piercing through my nose, when I saw them checking their coats. Then I realized minimal-wear was coming up and all I'd be wearing was a jockstrap!"

By the time he was onstage having his turn-ons and turn-offs recited to the crowd, Cribbin realized it was indeed possible for co-workers to know too much. But, he adds, "On Monday morning after MLT, they wanted to know if I'd won. It was nice to know I could have that impact."

Cribbin admits that he didn't initially expect to win Mr. Woody's. "I didn't have a full concept of what MLT did. There was another contestant with a more physically

commanding presence, and I really thought it was just a beauty pageant. After that, I apologized to the judges and became determined to do the best job I could."

Although they're still checking certifications and registrations, but it appears the beneficiary of Cribbin's fundraising efforts this year will be the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgendered Youth Program. He felt they were most in line with his platform as they offer support services and empowerment to kids who are coming-out, which is one of the greatest hurdles any gay person faces.

In his first week as the new face of Toronto's leather community, Cribbin has already realized what a niche it can be. Along with MLT 2001, Peter Theodoropolous, and Remi, they attended a CANFAR event at the Royal Ontario Museum in full leather, which turned out to be a black-tie affair. But he loved the experience, and spent the entire night being photographed with women in ball gowns.

In his early gay days hanging out at Comrades,

Cribbin was always drawn to anybody wearing even the smallest stitch of leather, but it wasn't until he saw his first issue of *Drummer* magazine that he became a leather "lifer". "I got [the magazine] from some guy in Tillsonburg," he recalls. "There was no Internet at the time, so I responded to a personal ad from a master. I was scared s**tless, but I got on a bus and went to visit him anyway. There wasn't a connection, but a friend who showed up on a motorcycle did it for me. I copied this other guy's number off a list near the phone, said I wasn't feeling well, slept in another room and called the motorcycle guy as soon as I got home. He was the guy who spanked me for the first time—and it ruined the fantasy because in real life, spanking hurts! Why didn't that ever occur to me?!"

Outside of the leather community, one of Sean's pastimes is planning what he dubs "adult play dates". Once a month he likes to mobilize troops of friends as a way of exploring his own interests while bringing other people together. His favourites are adventure sports like rock climbing or white water rafting. I wonder how he'd feel about lessons in baton twirling... ▼

Lino DiNallo is a freelance copywriter living it up in Toronto. Spank him and he'll spank you back—hard.



The new Mr. Leather Toronto 2005, Sean Cribbin (right), pictured here with Mr. Leather Fellowship/First Runner Up, Cameron Lewis

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The rainbow's grey area

By Peter Carlyle-Gordge

On September 16, 2004, Mr. Justice Douglas of the Manitoba Court of Queen's Bench ordered that the definition of marriage in Manitoba include same-sex couples. Both the province of Manitoba and the federal government had consented to the form of the new order at a case conference. They and lawyers for three same-sex couples seeking the ruling had agreed in advance to an expedited hearing.

After the law changed, Vital Statistics, which oversees the appointment of civil marriage commissioners, advised all of them in writing that the government now recognized such unions legally and that they were obliged to perform same-sex marriages. To refuse to do so was to break the new law and they must resign if they had problems with that. Since then, some eleven commissioners have resigned because they were uncomfortable with the idea. Ordained ministers whose churches forbid recognition of same-sex weddings are legally in the clear if they turn down a same-sex marriage request. However, one marriage commissioner—Kevin Kisilowski of Stonewall, Manitoba—doesn't want to perform same-sex marriages and refuses to resign. He became a commissioner a year ago and has never been asked to marry a same-sex couple, but wants to make a point. To do so, he has filed a formal complaint with the Manitoba Human Rights Commission, which will consider the protest, based on his religious convictions. Kisilowski, a printing press operator, is married with a family and runs an outreach ministry to prisoners and drug addicts. He used to battle alcohol and drugs himself, but has cleaned up his life.

He isn't a rabid gay basher, either: in a long interview with *Outlooks* he sounded quite rational and clearly doesn't have an anti-gay agenda, but does deeply and sincerely believe that the Bible makes it clear that same-sex unions are against God's will.

"When I applied for a marriage commissioner's licence a year ago I made it clear to Vital Statistics that I was only interested in performing Christian ceremonies and they seemed OK with that," he tells *Outlooks*. "I haven't been asked to perform a same-sex marriage but I should have the right to decline it rather than being forced to resign."

The government's response is that he is licensed to uphold the civil law and that includes

performing same-sex marriages. Kisilowski's response is that abortion is *also* legal, but doctors—who essentially work for government—are not all forced to perform abortions if their conscience is violated. They have an opt-out clause; but with marriages, he doesn't.

Stefhanie Cholakis, the first legally married lesbian in Manitoba (she married her partner of thirteen years, Michelle Ritchot, hours after the court decision), has some sympathy with where Kisilowski is coming from and has said so publicly.

"Both Michelle and I have some compassion for this guy's situation because he is sincere—but what he doesn't understand is that our sexual orientation isn't some kind of lifestyle choice," she says. "That's who we are and there's no point arguing with his religious beliefs because he doesn't understand what it is to be gay or lesbian."

She says there are over a hundred licensed marriage commissioners in the province and people can choose who they want to perform a ceremony, whether they are GLBT friendly or not. "If you want a car you have a vast choice of where to buy one. And, in the same way, you can shop around for a commissioner you feel comfortable with," she says. "However, if I were sitting on a court or on a human rights commission and had to rule on this case I know I would rule against Mr. Kisilowski, even though I have some compassion for his situation."

Marriage commissioner Rod Mackay, a friend of Cholakis, is a straight man with a family but has married both heterosexual and homosexual couples. "I think this guy is totally out of order and has no business dragging his religious views into this," he tells *Outlooks*. "He is licensed by the province and the provincial law is now very clear."

That view is shared by Don Bowler, the marriage commissioner who married Cholakis and Ritchot. "I was a bit taken aback when the law changed and we all got a letter from Vital Statistics telling us we must resign if we couldn't go along with it," he says. "When I thought about it, though, I realized they're right. You can't pick and choose which parts of a law to uphold. The province gives us our credentials and we have to uphold their laws or return our certificates. It's that simple."

Bowler, a gay man, has performed both gay and straight marriage services, including one for his straight son.

For his part, Kisilowski still believes same-sex attraction and consummation is sinful and claims to know a man who was once gay but found religion and eventually changed, acquiring a wife and family in the process. "I deal a lot with single straight men, including addicts and bikers," he says. "I try to bring them to an understanding of Christ and how he can change lives, as he changed mine. I am still tempted sometimes but we have to resist temptation. Same-sex lifestyles are a temptation just as alcohol, drugs and premarital sex with women are a temptation."

He urges young, unmarried straight men to practice celibacy until they meet the right woman. Does that mean that all people with a same-sex attraction should remain celibate for life? To do anything else, he clearly implies, would be wrong. They must resist what he calls temptation, even though spiritually minded GLBT people would consider their attraction not a temptation but a loving, natural instinct ordained by God rather than cursed by Him/Her/It.

When told bluntly that many same-sex couples are practicing Christians and go to church (Cholakis and her partner were active in the Metropolitan Community Church) Kisilowski says he doesn't dare be judgmental, but he seriously questions whether those professing Christianity and homosexual unions can be true Christians and followers of God's word. However, he also admits that God will be the final judge and one day we will all know the answer.

In the meantime, he awaits a ruling by the Human Rights Commission and says he knows they have had other complaints similar to his. He's also had some calls of support, including one from a magistrate, as well as an offer of help from a lawyer.

"I feel a bit like David going up against Goliath, but I think my human rights and conscience are being violated if I'm obliged to perform same-sex marriages," he says. "I do not publicly speak against gays and lesbians and I've had many intelligent conversations with some of them. I ought to have the freedom to choose whether or not I will perform marriages certain marriages though."

He adds that the state has made legal modifications in the past, based on religious convictions. Sikhs, for instance, are allowed to wear turbans in the RCMP and they are allowed to enter courtrooms wearing their daggers, which are a part of their religion. ▼

Peter Carlyle-Gordge is a former Manitoba correspondent for Maclean's and The Financial Post. He has written for most major magazines and newspapers in Canada as well as broadcast on the national and international networks of CBC Radio.

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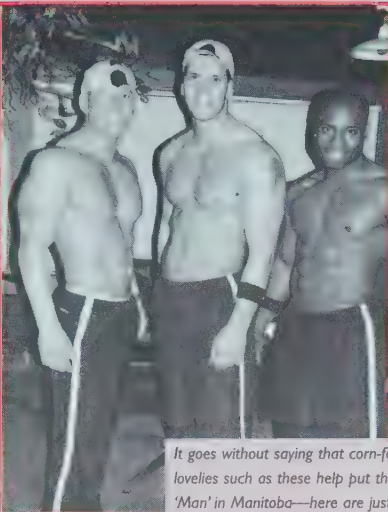
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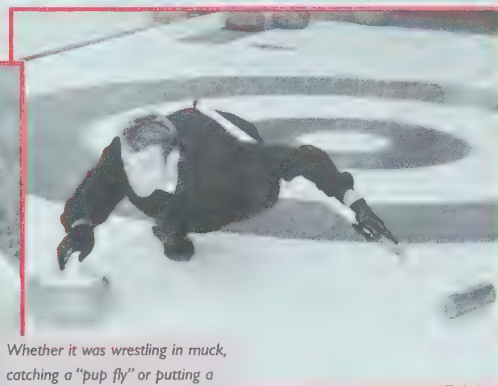
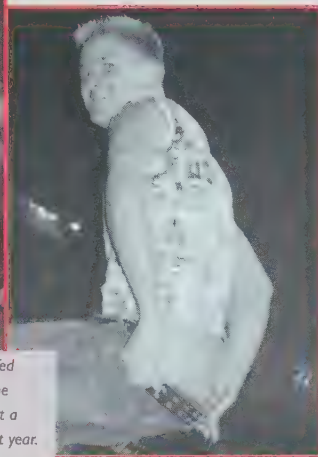
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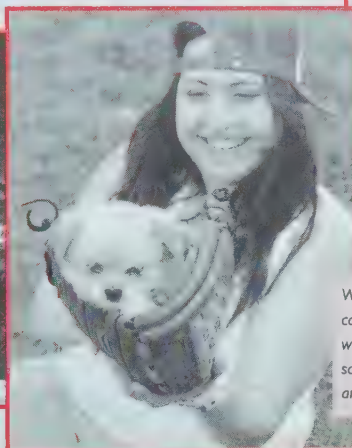
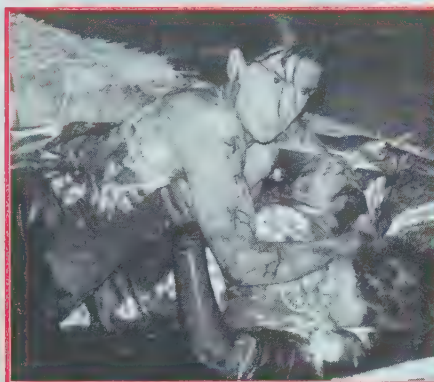
THE YEAR IN REVIEW



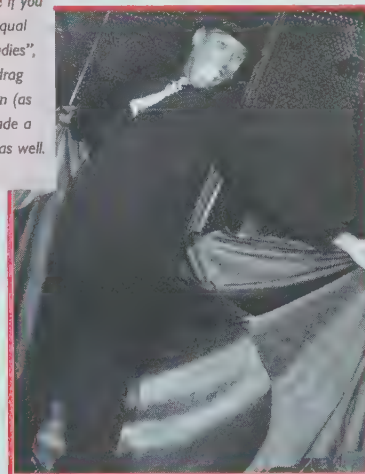
It goes without saying that corn-fed lovelies such as these help put the 'Man' in Manitoba—here are just a couple of our faves from the past year.



Whether it was wrestling in muck, catching a "pup fly" or putting a win "on ice", the GLBT sports scene in Winnipeg enjoyed a long and healthy run in 2004.



We're not sure if you could call it "equal time for the ladies", but the city's drag king population (as seen right) made a good 'go' of it as well.



The year 2004 saw the end of an era, namely the closing of Gio's, one of Canada's longest-running gay establishments. Pictured (right) are a few Mr. and Ms Gio's titleholders from years past, who were on hand for the bar's final night.

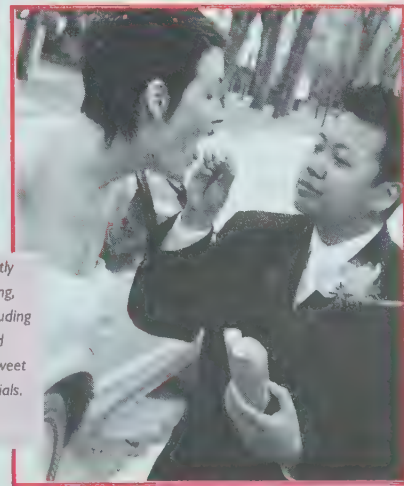


It was another fabulous year of glitz and glamour for Winnipeg's drag community, including recently crowned Empress Sabrina Seville (left) and performer Lucy Lube (below).



All photos this page by Brent Y.

Though they were slightly ahead of the court ruling, many Manitobans—including Liz and Reece (pictured right)—savoured the sweet taste of same-sex nuptials.





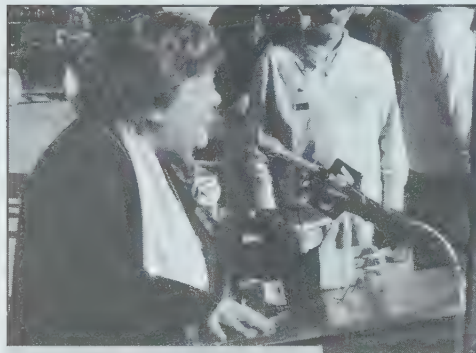
Libby's on the lookout

By Gerard MacMullin

If U.S. President George Bush was serious about finding weapons of mass destruction, he should have called Libby Davies. Davies, the New Democratic MP for Vancouver East succeeded where United Nations inspectors and the U.S. military failed—she uncovered the world's largest stockpile of WMDs. Of course Davies didn't search for arms in Iraq. She led her inspection team to the United States.

"I actually flew, in a little tiny airplane—and I don't like flying in little airplanes—over Bangor, Washington," says the three-term MP. "I did a visual inspection of all the submarines and bombs in their silos... I could never do that today, they'd shoot me down."

These days, as NDP House Leader in a minority Parliament, Davies has less time for what some critics dismissed as a publicity stunt. With the Liberals clinging to power, the New Democrats have their best opportunity in years to have a real impact on legislation. With too few seats to hold a balance of power, no one's expecting a return to the NDP glory days, but Davies is optimistic her party will be heard.



Libby Davies, NDP Member of Parliament for Vancouver East, seen here speaking at a National Housing Day rally in Toronto

"I think people's expectations are very high...I do believe we're in a very key position here in pushing for and influencing a very progressive agenda," she says.

That agenda includes electoral reform, blocking Canada's participation in the U.S. missile defense shield, environmental issues, childcare, housing and same-sex marriage. Davies has strong feelings on the same-sex marriage issue, and in recent years has come out in a lesbian relationship, joining the small group of Canada's gay MPs.

It's been more than thirty years since Davies burst onto the political scene with her husband, the late Bruce Eriksen. The two formed a powerful political alliance, first as community activists in Vancouver's downtown east side and, later, in five consecutive terms on Vancouver City Council, where Davies earned a reputation as a fighter for difficult—if not lost—causes.

Three decades later her biggest cause is still Vancouver's downtown east side—the place where her career started—a tragic stew of human misery. In the middle of the city's conspicuous wealth, overpriced real estate and Olympic boosterism, thousands of people live with rampant poverty and disease, violence, crime, debilitating addiction and Canada's largest open drug market. A local pig farmer is awaiting trial on several charges related to the disappearance of at least sixty-nine women here, an unbelievable string of murders that for years was completely ignored because no one seemed to care.

"That neighbourhood is suffering from an overload of grief," Davies says. "It's almost palpable when you're in the community and more names are added to the [missing women] list. There are still women who are out there at risk today."

She believes the tragedy happened because the system is blind to marginalized people. "If it were four university students; if it were twenty or fifty or sixty-nine, would this not be a national emergency?" she asks, noting that many of the murdered women were sex trade workers.

Davies wants a public inquiry to find out what went wrong and why. And she says laws related to the sex trade have to be changed because they are contributing to the risk. "They're archaic laws in that they don't protect the women on the street and they certainly don't protect the local communities."

That passion for her own community distinguishes Davies from many others on Canada's left who seem obsessed with U.S. President Bush and American foreign policy.

"I absolutely, with every fibre of my body, disagree with what [Bush] is doing, and I'll go to every bloody rally I can to speak out. But the issue I want to get at is where does Paul Martin stand? What is he going to do?" she asks.

Davies has been especially critical of federal Health Minister Ujjal Dosanjh, who jumped from the NDP to join the Martin Liberals in the last election. "It kind of makes me mad that this former [British Columbia] NDP premier, the guy who said he was going to stop privatization and all of that, now defending what I think is a very poor record for the Liberals."

Davies is deeply concerned over the growing number of British Columbians who can't even access the health care system because they can't afford the monthly premiums.

Her combative stance during question period is however, political, not personal. "You know what? I sat by Ujjal on the plane a couple of weeks ago and we talked like old friends; people who've known each other for a long while."

Davies has also lost the ally who was perhaps her most important—former New Democrat Svend Robinson, who gave up his seat after admitting to stealing an expensive diamond ring last spring. "I miss him terribly. I really, really do. He's not only a personal friend he's always been a mentor and a great political ally"

For Davies, these alliances and friendships are every bit as important as her basic principles.

"You know, it's one thing to espouse a certain political philosophy or ideology [but] it's the way you do politics, it's the way you work with people that at the end of the day I think people remember."

That seems to sum up the MP's long political success story: find a common cause to build consensus, take the high road and stick to the issue at hand. Whether Davies can translate her personal success into much needed relief for people in Vancouver East is the real challenge.

"I represent a riding where a lot of people are hurting," she admits.

Fixing a social tragedy on the scale of Vancouver's downtown east side is so daunting some want to write off as the ultimate lost cause. But don't suggest that to Davies.

"They are human beings," she says, sounding like she's been stating the obvious for many years. "They have the same right to dignity, respect, housing, income, support and safety as every other human being." ▼

Gerard MacMullin is a writer/broadcaster who lives in Vancouver's West End.

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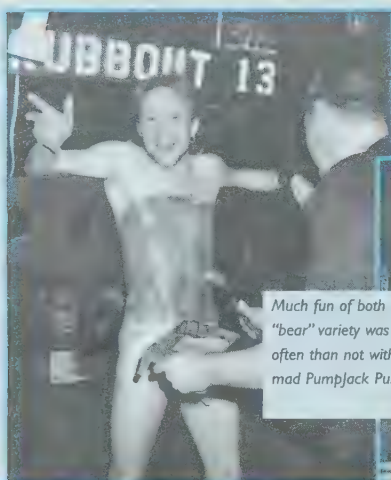
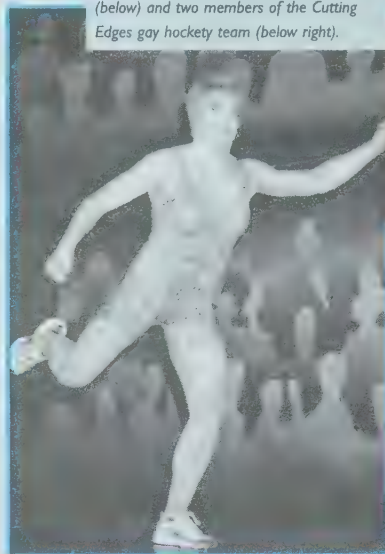
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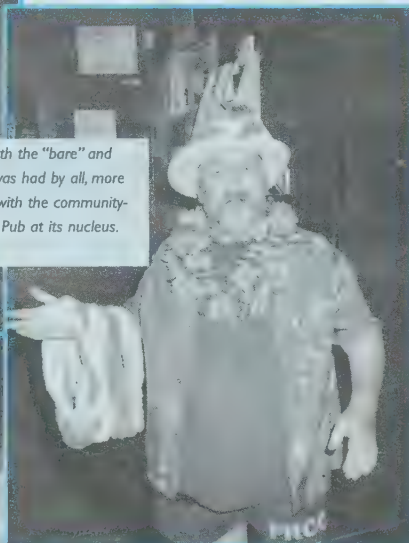
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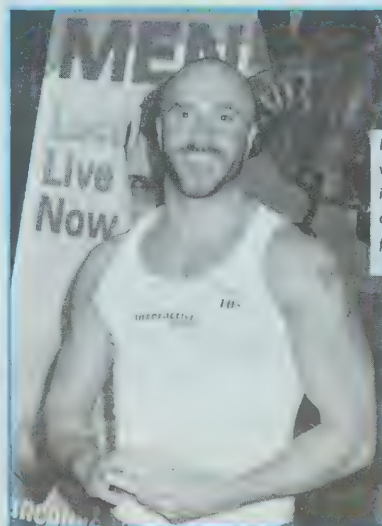
THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Much fun of both the "bare" and "bear" variety was had by all, more often than not with the community-mad PumpJack Pub at its nucleus.



Ever the trooper, Mayor Larry Campbell worked the town like a seasoned drag queen... now we've just got to find him a back-up kilt for those extremely busy portions of the next year ahead!



If we tried to show you all the hotties, we'd have to put out a 1,000-page issue. Singer Scott Bolton (left) was only one of the many who graced our pages...

All photos this page by Barry Piersdorff

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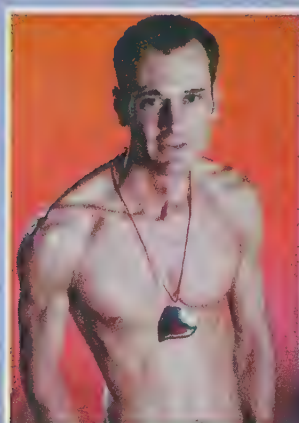
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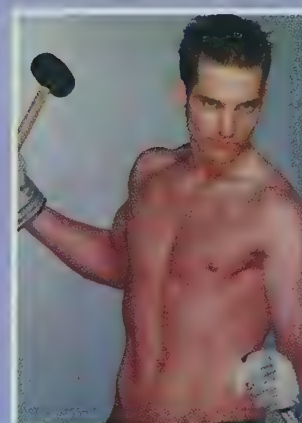
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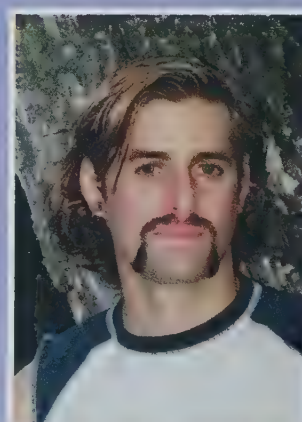
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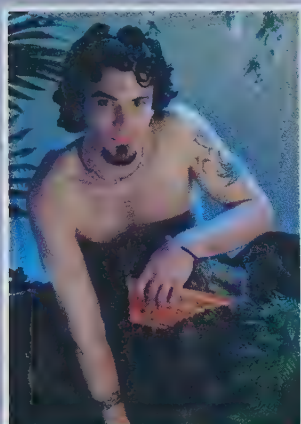
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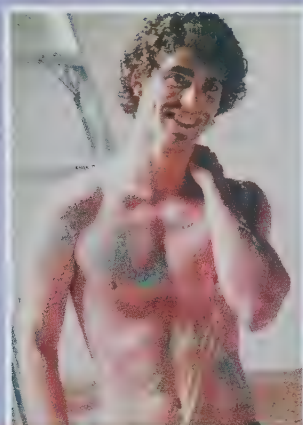
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OUTLOOKS

Safer Sex is an
Everyday Affair



A long horizontal banner featuring a variety of logos for different organizations, including Outlooks, Theatrical Institute, and various local businesses.



What is it about 2005 that gets us so heady? It must be the delicious movement of those Outer planets—lucky Jupiter, plucky Pluto and snarky Saturn—through the cosmos this next year. Will they bring new opportunities or new lessons? Bring 'em on!

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

Sex: Cool your jets early in the year but prepare for take-off and landing, as Jupiter will sizzle your steak in the fall. Who loves you, baby? Kiss and tell! **Career:** Your mind is not on the job now but wait until later in the year. Don't trip on your way up the corporate ladder...oops! **Health:** You'll feel particularly fit through the year. Conserve your energy with loads of vacations.

Taurus (April 21-May 21)

Sex: Pluto will plant surprises in your sex life in 2005—will you risk your current bliss on a new temptation? Kaboom! **Career:** You have nine months to make a professional mark. What are you waiting for? **Health:** You'll burst with pride and feel in top form through the year. Thank Jupiter for the expansiveness. Did I say expansiveness? Hmm. Better think "diet" through the summer.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

Sex: Sex will be heady thanks to Jupiter through early 2005. Is it a trip to the moon on gossamer wings? By fall it'll be just one of those things. **Career:** Money will be tight in the first half of 2005 and you should be, too. Jupiter will reward those who bide their time... and then pounce! **Health:** It will be a marathon rather than a sprint; by the autumn, you'll begin to feel fit. Why not feel Randy instead?

CANCER (June 22-July 23)

Sex: A prim and proper appearance will heat them up in the winter and drive them "Wild" through the summer. Enjoy it and prepare to go head over heels in the fall. **Career:** Expect changes on the job through 2005 but money will still flow... until July. You will learn to save. **Health:** Avoid overdoing. Pluto will place a pothole here and there. Relax and recharge. Keep an eye on the voltage.

LEO (July 24-August 23)

Sex: Proud Lions will be swept off their paws when new admirers lighten their load through the year. How will you choose? Look for one who is well endowed... financially! **Career:** You can impress senior staff—one you make it pay off before autumn chills your warmth? **Health:** The one thing that will tax you in 2005 is uncontrollable sex. So, tax and spend, lover!

VIRGO (August 24-September 23)

Sex: A thing of beauty is a joy forever... or at least until fall, when your mind will wander to other pursuits. Fill your cup of love until it overflows all summer. **Career:** Make your professional move in the spring so you can barbeque corporate shark all summer. Will you bite off more than you can chew? Oh, let's hope so! **Health:** Pluto will tempt you with mind-altering diversions. Yee-haw!

LIBRA (September 24-October 23)

Sex: Pals will get in the way of true romance, thinking they have your best interests at heart. You, meanwhile, will be adrift on a cloud of lust. Pack a pillow, baby. **Career:** No sun will set on your corporate empire in 2005, but you'll have to work hard for what you get. **Health:** Be careful with physical exertion. Blame Uranus' shocking surprises. Chill out and meditate...not medicate.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22)

Sex: Romance will come like a bolt out of the blue. You won't know when you will be swept off your feet. **Career:** Proud Scorps will control their corporate destiny for most of 2005 but detour in the summer. There are lessons to be learned. Will you stay after school? You wish! **Health:** Tone down the partying and channel stress in other ways. How about a hot toddy with a hottie instead?

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 22)

Sex: Gay Archers will re-assess what (and who) turns them on. A secret admirer will make an appearance in October. Trick or treat? **Career:** There will be a pinstriped guardian angel guiding your career through 2005, and you'll be limited only by your lack of ambition and outdated wardrobe. Hint, hint. **Health:** You'll pick up energy as the year progresses, and by spring you'll be raring to go-go-go. Go where?

CAPRICORN (December 23-January 20)

Sex: Your sex life can be ho-hum. Resolve to loosen up so someone can tie you down. Guess who? **Career:** Strike while the iron is hot in your career: early 2005 will be the best time to implement your grand plan. **Health:** Pluto will plot a few surprises that throw you off track. Thankfully, you'll have plenty of volunteers ready to nurse you back to health, should the occasion arise.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19)

Sex: You're footloose and fancy-free now, but could heat up with a certain someone later in 2005. Go melt the snow. **Career:** You'll feel happy just coasting in your career for most of 2005. Lucky breaks will dramatically change your finances, so spread it around. **Health:** If you feel tired and cranky in the first half of 2005, blame Saturn. Then make up for lost time in the summer.

PISCES (February 20-March 20)

Sex: A honeybee will buzz around your hive in early 2005—will it stir your honey pot? By October, fly off to parts unknown to explore parts unknown. **Career:** Your career landscape can change in a moment, so prepare to make some surprising first impressions. Is that spinach in your teeth? **Health:** I prescribe loads of sex to keep you healthy, wealthy, wise... and otherwise occupied.

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Thank you to all our customers and friends for their generous donations to the Beswick stockings and hampers.

IGBO Fundraiser featuring a DJ, silent auction and 50/50 draw will be held on Saturday January 29, starting at 8 p.m.

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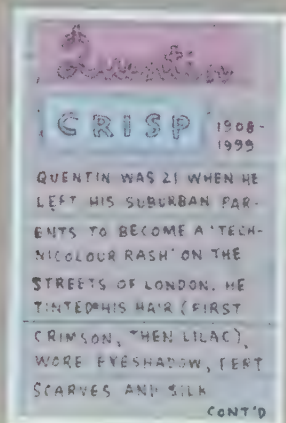
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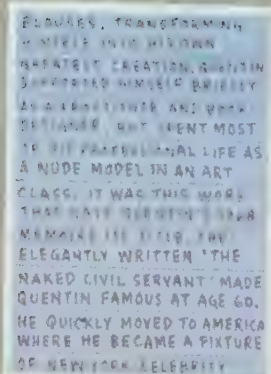
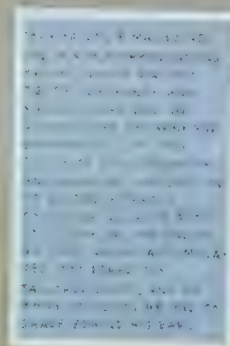
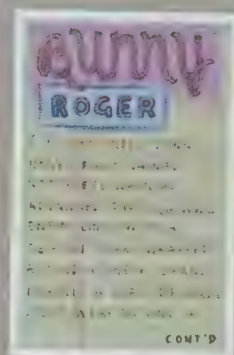
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A legend is building around Manitoba artist Daniel Barrow's unique performance work. Using an overhead projector, Daniel manually animates beautifully rendered signature illustrations, layering and maneuvering transparencies while reciting an interrelated story. From this active collage of drawings emerges a hybrid art form that pushes the boundaries of contemporary art and cinema. With an overall narrative about spiritual transformation, Barrow's works are at once delicate, gorgeous and tragic. To see more, visit www.danielbarrow.com



These images from Daniel Barrow's "Trading Cards" series



(Right) "Girl and Mirror" by Daniel Barrow



OUTLOOKS

is proud to bring you this ongoing showcase of artistic talent in Canada's GLBT community. If you would like your work considered for this feature please submit samples to main@outlooks.ca

By Outlooks Staff

They measure it in inches, you know...

If snow's your thing then Whistler's the place to be January 29 through February 7, for the largest gay and lesbian ski week in North America. Altitude 2005 features more than forty events and activities on and off the mountain and some of the best skiing and snowboarding on the continent. When the day is through, party well into the night with world-class DJs and some of the hottest men around. More info is available at www.oosp.com and www.outontheslopes.com.

New Dollars (for the) Party The Buffalo Club (1161 Granville Street) is the venue for an NDP fundraiser to benefit the riding of Vancouver Burrard on January 13. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. with the cabaret portion of the evening starting at 8. MC Pussy Willow will take to the stage and welcome performers such as: Long John Baldry; Vancouver Raging

To have your community event listed in Pulse, please submit your information by the 15th of the month prior to issue date. E-mail: main@outlooks.ca. Toll-free fax: 1-877-885-6657.

Grannies; Vancouver Lesbian Gay Choir; Christine D. Best and the Thin Men; Radio Edit, a Comedy Troupe; AJ Zaenky; and Bughouse 5. Tix are \$15 in advance (Little Sister's) or \$20 at the door. For more info call (604) 687-1723.

The sale is set CruiseT, Vancouver's largest floating T-Dance, is gearing up for yet another year of fun on the high seas. Season passes are now available for the 2005 sailings, so check the online schedule out and mark your dates accordingly. For more information on this unique West Coast attraction, log onto www.cruiseyt.com or call 'em at (604) 551-2628

Get closer... The Van East Cultural Centre (1893 Venables) is the place to be January 16, when Holly Near takes to the stage with pianist John Bucchino. She's been called "A divine mix of Pete Seeger and Judy Garland" and "A powerful voice of peace and justice for thirty years"—what's not to love? Tickets are \$24 in advance and available through Little Sister's, Women in Print, Urban Empire and TicketMaster: by phone at (604) 280-3311 or online at www.ticketmaster.com. Tickets can also be had at the door at a cost of \$27, provided the show doesn't sell out in advance.



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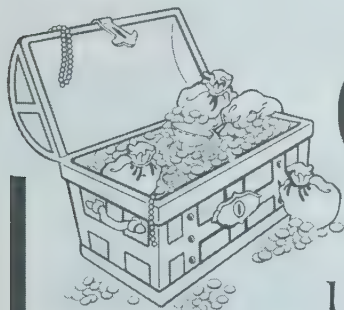
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Community Chest

Upcoming Events:

January 13, 2005

The NDP will be holding a fundraiser for the riding of Vancouver Burrard; don't miss this evening of fun, hosted by MC Pussy Willow. Featured performers include Long John Baldry; Vancouver Raging Grannies; Vancouver Lesbian Gay Choir; Christine D. Best and the Thin Men; Radio Edit, a Comedy Troupe; AJ Zaenky; and Bughouse 5. For ticket info, call (604) 687-1723.

January 13, 2005

L'Amour...Takes Off—You're invited to be part of the glamour and romance of '40s aviation; part swank cocktail lounge, part high-energy fashion show at The Roundhouse Community Centre from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. For more info e-mail michel@lemakeupartist.com or call (604) 603-4696

Monies Raised Last Month:

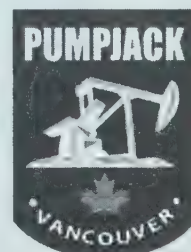
* The total raised by the Pumpjack Pub for the 2004 Cops for Cancer Tour was \$7364.12 Special thanks to all those who donated and participated to help make this event a success!

* The following raised funds for the Dr. Peter Centre in the past month—MAC AIDS Fund: \$25,000; Fillmore Family Foundation: \$7,655; and the Provincial Employees Community Services Fund: \$1,448

Thanks to the Vancouver Community for your support!

To pre-promote your fundraiser or report on monies raised in the next issue of *Outlooks Vancouver* email: main@outlooks.ca or fax info toll free to 1-877-885-6657

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OUTLOOKS' FEATURE INN



After picking up a copy of *Outlooks* in February 2002, Michael Dwyer & David Marshall (formerly of Toronto) came across a real estate listing in the magazine for Perth Manor. Six weeks later they found themselves in Perth, Ontario, converting a manor house and gardens built in 1878 into one of the finest boutique hotels and reception facilities in the area.

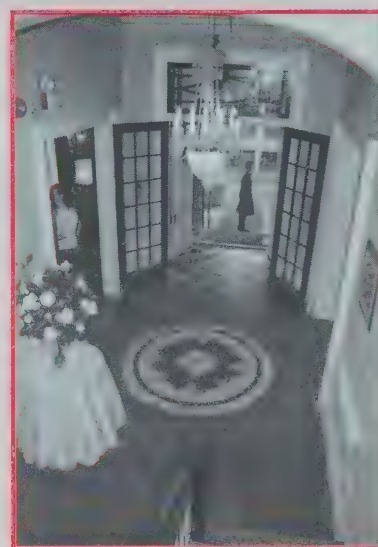


As the town of Perth and region did not have an hotel, they felt they needed to create such accommodation and provide a venue that would tap into a market not currently being served.

Almost three years later the business has taken off and they have reservations and weddings booked up until the summer of 2006!

As you enter the grand double doors of Perth Manor you are instantly transported back to a time of grandeur and elegance, from the glistening four-foot Empire chandelier in the foyer to the vintage 1930s and '40s music that plays throughout the manor daily. Guests are reminded of a time gone by yet do not yearn for any of today's comforts and luxuries.

All guest suites offer en-suite private baths,



direct dial telephones with private voicemail and Internet access, television, CD players and air conditioning. Room amenities are provided by Lord & Mayfair. Each night of accommodation includes a full complimentary breakfast.

Perth Manor is fully licensed and offers on-site event planning for corporate and special events. For reservations and inquiries, visit Perth Manor online at www.perthmanor.com

Clockwise from above: proprietors Michael Dwyer and David Marshall; the entryway and foyer of the property; and one of the many beautifully appointed rooms Perth Manor has to offer its guests.



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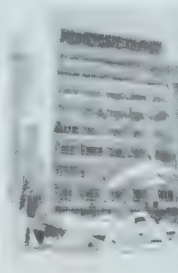
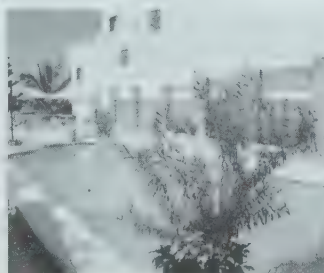


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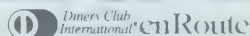
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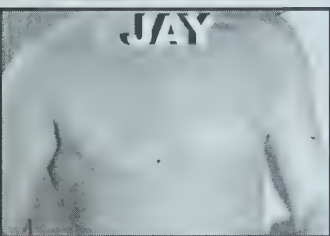
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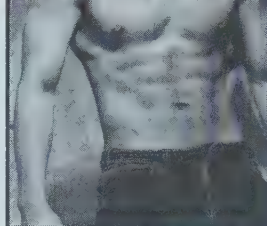
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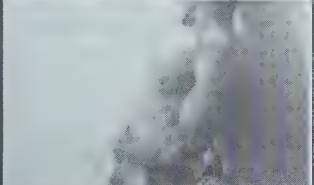
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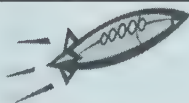


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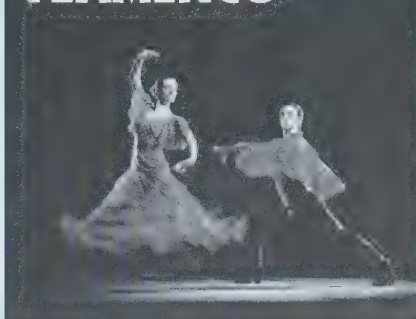


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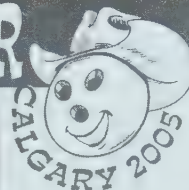


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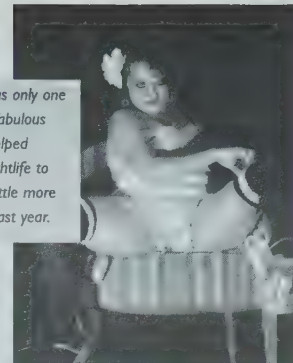
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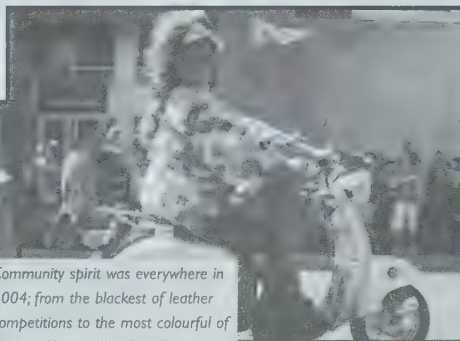
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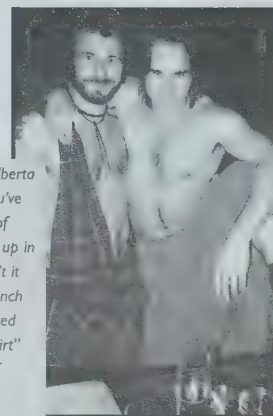
Le Boudoir was only one of the many fabulous events that helped Montreal's nightlife to glitter just a little more brightly this past year.



Community spirit was everywhere in 2004; from the blackest of leather competitions to the most colourful of queens, Montreal had it all!



Who needs Alberta beef when you've got this kind of talent turning up in the east? Ain't it nice those French boys are relaxed enough to "skirt" their issues of masculinity?!



CHelsea BOYS

BY
GLEN HANSON
and
ALLAN NEUWIRTH

THE WHOLE GANG HEADS
TO TORONTO FOR
RICKI AND LUCIE'S
WEDDING ...

WATCH, THEY AIN'T GONNA LET
THAT UGLY BABY LINDSAY THROUGH
CUSTOMS. GONNA PUT IT TO
WORK SNIFFIN' FO' DRUGS!

≥ GIGGLE ≥
SHHH! THEY'LL
HEAR YOU.

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HEY! HOW CAN YA NOT LOVE A
COUNTRY WHOSE MASCOT IS A
BEAVER?

SIGHTSEEING ...

HMMM... IT SAYS HERE
THAT THE CN TOWER
IS THE TALLEST
BUILDING IN THE
WORLD.

WOW.
MAKES YOU
FEEL REALLY
SMALL.

BABY, A
FIRE HYDRANT
MAKES YOU FEEL
REALLY SMALL.

THANKS,
BITCH.

DAMN, IT'S SO
CLEAN IN THIS
CITY... AND
EVERYONE'S SO
POLITE.

YEAH, TOO
CLEAN AND
TOO POLITE.
I DON'T
TRUST 'EM.
≥ HEH HEH ≥

LATER, ON CHURCH ST...

I'M EXHAUSTED. HEY,
GUYS--LET'S STOP IN HERE FOR A COCKTAIL.

WITH
THE BABY?!

OH, COME! I'LL CHALLENGE THE
KID TO A DRINKING CONTEST.

MMM-MMM... THESE CANADIAN
BOYS ARE
FINE!

DUDE... DON'T YOU
HAVE A BOYFRIEND?

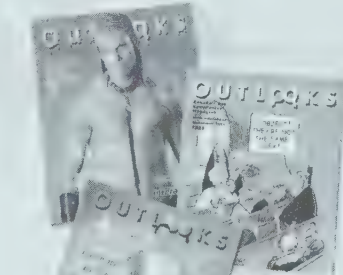
OH, I'M JUS' LOOKIN'... ME AN' CURTIS
AGREED T' KEEP IT JUS' BETWEEN US.
NOT THAT HE'D KNOW, BUT AH'D FEEL
REAL SHITTY IF I CHEATED ON HIM.

WHAT A REFRESHING
ATTITUDE, HUH,
SKY?

YEAH...

OKAY,
EVERYONE!
I'D LIKE TO
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TOAST...

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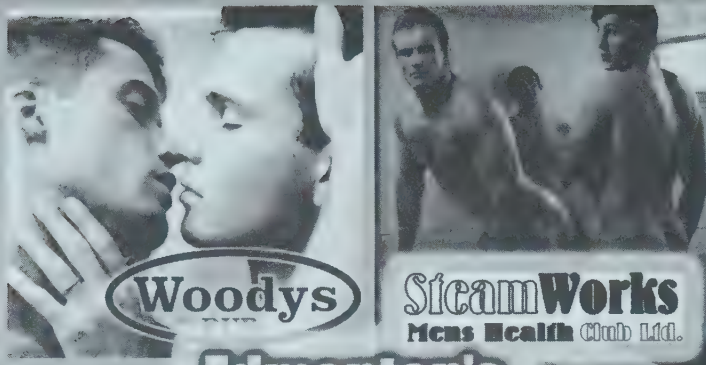
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OUTLOOKS



LETTERS



Editor,

So Ralph Klein wants to hold a plebiscite on same-sex marriage; could he be following in the footsteps of Pontius Pilate, who used a similar process to determine the fate of Jesus Christ?

To quote the *Catholic Encyclopedia*:

Pilate is a type of the worldly man, knowing the right and anxious to do it so far as it can be done without personal sacrifice of any kind, but yielding easily to pressure from those whose interest it is that he should act otherwise. He would gladly have acquitted Christ, and even made serious efforts in that direction, but gave way at once when his own position was threatened.

Just a thought.

M. Wright

Calgary

The Editor Responds:

Hmmm... sounds like you're giving Klein more credit than is his due, at least in comparison to Pontius Pilate—after all, Pilate was civilized enough to wash his hands, a bit of grace (for lack of a better word) that would likely be lost as someone as primitive as our man Ralph. Interesting point, though...

Dear Outlooks,

I think A. Daignault, who wrote in the last issue that *Outlooks* staffers were "bashing" Christians and Christianity, should seek some sort of counselling. Anyone who calls him- or herself a "proud gay Christian" needs to take a long look at just how they fit into the scheme of that faith, moderate or otherwise. As long as the Bible and its unrelenting gay-bashing is being used as a guide for faith, there will never be true equality, and people who "overlook" that aspect of Christianity are just deluding themselves if they feel they can really be a part of it, unconditionally. Isn't that kind of like the battered housewife dismissing her husband's abuse because "he really does love me"?

P. Gedrick

Vancouver

The Editor Responds:

All kinds of people have all kinds of reasons for choosing the faith (or lack thereof) that guides them in life. True, many Christians do feel that homosexuals have no place in their church, or in the world for that matter. However, there are those in the GLBT community who have found they *can* make the dynamics of the religion work for them—the Metropolitan Community Church comes to mind here—and it is up to them to make or break their peace with "God". From my own perspective, I couldn't care less if people decide to worship cooked parsnips, provided they don't try to push 'em down my throat. ▼



Dear
FREDDY

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month's issue... Fred
needs a bit of time to
overcome his holiday
hangover!

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ONE DOLLAR

Storm Drain

From: Helix Studios



Featuring: Sean Storm, T.J. Jordan, Tommy, Mark Mathews, Antonio Pinto, Romano Garcia, T.J. Wood, Eric Austin, Alex Pitt, Buddy Long

Running Time: 90 minutes

From the very start of this movie, it's easy to see that its good-looking, muscular, well-hung star Sean Storm has all the qualities of a perfect bottom—and he's ready for a series of hunky tops! When the film opens, Sean is alone waiting for his boyfriend to return home, and with three hours to wait, he needs some hot action. He soon decides to phone a trick that pleased him a week earlier, and is surprised when T.J. Jordan rejects his invitation for a hot time. This leaves Sean wondering if the sex was as good as he remembers, and in his mind he relives the action so the viewer can also judge this clandestine interlude.

Very soon (not surprisingly), Sean has boyfriend issues and ends up sleeping in his car. He's awakened by a friend who offers to let him crash at his place for awhile until Sean sorts out his home life. This friend, T.J. Wood, is a masseur (as luck would have it) and offers to iron out the kinks in Sean's body created by a night in the driver's seat. Like every good masseur, T.J. is father confessor, psychoanalyst and stress reliever all rolled into one—just what Sean needed!

When Sean begins to recount the number of flings he's had recently, the boyfriend problem becomes quite evident. On the upside, each story is a vivid account that demonstrates how much Sean is addicted to sex. Even when shopping for clothes at Clothes Encounters he finds himself turning into an exhibitionist in the dressing room. A public washroom is also the setting for a classic anonymous transgression.

It turns out that the "twink incident", however, is the straw that broke Sean's

boyfriend's back. With Sean home alone and the door open, it was easy for horse-hung Tommy to enter the apartment. This young man would be impossible for anyone to resist and, for bottom-boy Sean, he is a dream come true. But the dream is shattered by Sean's boyfriend's discovery of what he was up to with the surprise visitor.

Sean is full of stories about his sexual escapades over the course of the long massage. T.J. realizes he has a great deal to listen to, but also seems to vicariously enjoy the vivid accounts of these fleeting affairs. In the end, he has plenty of advice for Sean.

A recent winner of the Bareback Video of the Year Award, this movie is probably a good example of what *not* to do—especially when you have a great boyfriend already—and Sean has a lot to learn about relationships and safer sex!

Review Sponsored by Express Video

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RATING: OUT OF FIVE POSSIBLE STARS

MUSIC: ★★★★★

SET: ★★★★★

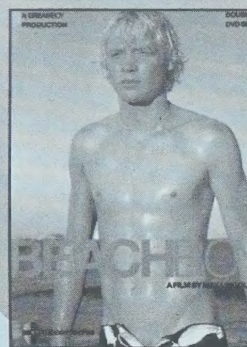
BODIES: ★★★★★

STORY: ★★★★★

ACTION SCENES: ★★★★★

Beachboy

From: Eurocreme and Dreamboy



Featuring: Jamie Summers, Darian Hawke, Reece Richards, Alex Halewood, Alistair Hill, Zack Jones, Connor Axon, Shawn Phillips, Ben Hunter, Holden Goldin, Angelo Rzama, Samuel Neuchatel, Peter Jan, Billy Daniels, Dylan Ryan

Running Time: 90 minutes

This movie is about nineteen-year-old Aussie Jamie Summers, who decides to explore England and take a break from the white, sandy beaches of Sydney. Jamie is a platinum blonde with a killer smile and a surfer-boy's body, and this story about his travels in England and Ibiza is a perfect escape from the January mid-winter blahs, one that will brighten any cold, dark evening at home.

Upon his arrival in London, the young hunk selects one of the small gay inns for his stay in the big city. The front desk clerk shows Jamie to his room and tells him if he needs anything at all to just dial '0' on the bedside phone. After a short while, horny Jamie feels a very definite need and room service is a must. He dials the magic number and his hotel clerk shows up, ready to perform the ultimate service. Of course, Jamie has a big tip for this staff 'member', who leaves with a big smile on his face.

However much fun he's having in London, Jamie yearns for a beach and the ocean (great sex cannot cure homesickness for an Aussie beach boy). The solution is a trip to Brighton, the famous gay resort on the south coast in England. This is much more like it for Jamie: there's sex on the Brighton pier, sex in the washrooms and late night threesomes in back alleys. However, his appetite is still not satisfied and he decides he needs more sunshine, so Jamie decides that the Spanish island of Ibiza is the best place for perfect beaches and to feel the warmth of the sun on his

beautiful body.

Of course, the heat on this gorgeous island is second only to the hot bodies of the island men who frequent the beaches. Jamie wastes no time making new friends and all the locals seem to love the hot blonde from down under. In no time, Jamie meets Alex and his group of horny stud-muffins, who all prove to be the ultimate in sexual entertainment. Unfortunately, Jamie falls in love with Alex and this sexual romp turns into a serious affair just as Jamie's vacation is coming to an end. What can he do? You can find out how he copes with the surprise love affair and brighten up a January evening at the same time by renting this movie. With extra bonus scenes, outtakes, interviews and photo galleries, this DVD is a must for any collector of erotica.

Review Sponsored by Eurocreme

Visit them online at www.eurocreme.com

RATING: OUT OF FIVE POSSIBLE STARS

MUSIC: ★★★★★

SET: ★★★★★

BODIES: ★★★★★

STORY: ★★★★★

ACTION SCENES: ★★★★★



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